

decision that the bank is liable for the reclamation; and

(4) That the bank has an opportunity to enter into a written agreement with Treasury for the repayment of the amount of the reclamation. A request for a payment agreement must be accompanied by proof that satisfies the Treasury that the requesting bank is unable to repay the entire amount owed at the time that it is due.

(b) Requests for an appointment to inspect and copy Treasury's records with respect to a reclamation and requests to enter into repayment agreements should be sent in writing to: Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Operations Division, Reclamation Branch, Room 700-D, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

(c)(1) If a presenting bank wishes to contest its liability for the principal amount demanded, it shall send a protest, *i.e.*, a written statement and copies of all documentary evidence (*e.g.*, affidavits, account agreements, signature cards) and other written information raising a question of law or fact which, if resolved in the bank's favor, would show that the bank is not liable, to: Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Operations Division, Reclamation Branch Room 700-D, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

The Director, Operations Division, who has supervisory authority over the Reclamation Branch, or his authorized subordinate, shall consider and decide any protest properly submitted under this paragraph. Neither the Director, Operations Division, nor any of his subordinates, shall have any involvement in the process of making findings or demands under § 240.6(a). In order to be considered, and to be timely, a protest must be received not later than 90 days after the reclamation date. Treasury will refrain from collection in accordance with § 240.8 while a timely protest is being considered. Unresolved protested items will be appropriately annotated on the monthly interest billing statement.

(2) If Treasury accepts the protest, the presenting bank shall be notified in writing that efforts to collect the item

and any accrued interest have been abandoned.

(3) If the evidence sent by the presenting bank does not satisfy Treasury that refund of the amount demanded is not required under § 240.6(a), Treasury will notify the presenting bank in writing of its decision that the bank is liable for the amount demanded and the reasons for its decision. If the presenting bank fails to send the amount demanded within 30 days of the date of Treasury's decision, Treasury shall proceed to collect the amount owed in accordance with § 240.8, provided that no offset shall be taken sooner than 120 days after the reclamation date.

(4) If an item, and/or accrued interest relating to that item remains unpaid for 90 days after the reclamation date and if there is no unresolved protest associated with the item, the monthly interest billing statement will be annotated with a notice that the presenting bank has until the next billing date to make payment on the item or be subject to offset thereon.

§ 240.8 Offset.

(a) If an item, and/or accrued interest relating to that item, remains unpaid for 120 days after the reclamation date and the presenting bank has been sent at least one monthly interest billing statement informing it that Treasury intends to collect that item by offset, Treasury may refer the matter to any Federal agency and request that agency to offset the indebtedness and other applicable charges against amounts otherwise owed by the Federal agency to the presenting bank. Monthly interest billing statements will be annotated to identify those specific items that are to be referred to an agency for offset.

(b) If a bank wishes to make payment on an item referred to an agency for offset, it should contact Treasury at the address listed in § 240.7(b) to reduce the possibility of a double collection. If an agency to which an indebtedness is referred in accordance with this paragraph is unable to effect offset in whole or in part, Treasury may then refer the debt to any other agency and request offset in accordance with this paragraph. Treasury designates each agency acting under this paragraph as its

designee for the sole purpose of effecting offset. No such designee shall be liable to any party for any loss resulting from its action under this paragraph.

(c) If Treasury is unable to collect an amount owed by use of the offset described in paragraph (a) of this section, Treasury shall take such action against the presenting bank as may be necessary to protect the interests of the United States, including referral to the Department of Justice.

(d) If Treasury effects offset under this section and it is later determined that the presenting bank paid the amount of the reclamation and accrued interest thereon, or that a presenting bank which had timely filed a protest was not liable for the amount of the reclamation, Treasury shall promptly refund to the presenting bank the amount of its payment.

§ 240.9 Processing of checks.

(a) *Federal Reserve Banks.* (1) Federal Reserve Banks shall cash checks for Government disbursing officers when such checks are drawn by the disbursing officers to their own order. Payment of such checks shall not be refused except for alteration or counterfeiting of the check, or forged signature of the drawer.

(2) Federal Reserve Banks shall not be expected to cash Government checks presented directly to them by the general public.

(3) As a depository of public funds, each Federal Reserve Bank shall:

(i) Receive checks from its member banks, nonmember clearing banks, or other depositors, when indorsed by such banks or depositors who guarantee all prior indorsements thereon;

(ii) Give immediate credit therefore in accordance with their current Time Schedules and charge the amount of the checks cashed or otherwise received to the account of the Treasury, subject to examination and payment by the United States Treasury;

(iii) Forward payment records and copies of checks to Treasury; and

(iv) Release the original checks to a designated Federal Records Center upon notification from Treasury. The Treasury shall return to the forwarding Federal Reserve Bank a photocopy

of any check the payment of which is refused upon first examination. Federal Reserve Banks shall give immediate credit therefor in the United States Treasury's account, thereby reversing the previous charge to the account for such check. The Treasury authorizes each Federal Reserve Bank to release the original check to the endorser when payment is refused in accordance with § 240.3(a).

(b) *Depositories outside of the mainland of the United States.* Banks outside of the mainland of the United States designated as depositories of public money and permitted to charge checks to the General Account of the United States Treasury shall be governed by the operating instructions contained in the letter of authorization to them from Treasury and shall assume the obligations of presenting banks set forth in §§ 240.5 and 240.6. Checks charged to the General Account of the United States Treasury along with the supporting credit voucher shall be shipped to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The Treasury shall return to the presenting depository bank a photocopy of any check the payment of which is refused upon first examination. The depository bank shall give immediate credit therefor in the General Account of the United States Treasury, thereby reversing the previous charge to the Account for such check. Treasury authorizes the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond to return to the presenting depository bank the original check when payment is refused in accordance with § 240.3(a).

§ 240.10 Release of original checks.

An original check may be released to a responsible indorser upon receipt of a properly authorized request showing the reason it is required and that the request is in conformity with all applicable law including the Privacy Act.

INDORSEMENT OF CHECKS

§ 240.11 Indorsement by payees.

(a) *General requirements.* Checks shall be indorsed by the payee or payees named, or by another on behalf of such payees as set forth in this part.

(b) *Checks indorsed by the payee or payees named.* When a check is indorsed